

ELECTRICITY FOR THE CITY.

Two Bids Submitted for the Furnishing of Arc Lights.

A NEW COMPANY IS IN THE FIELD.

The Retrenchment and Reform Committee Decides in Favor of the Minimum Rate for Water-Council Committee Consolidated.

The Committee on Light held a short session last night and opened bids for the electric lighting of the city for three years from April 1st next. Only two bids were received, one from the Richmond Railway and Electric Company at 15 cents for each light per night; the other from the Southern Electric Company fixing its charge at 19 4/10 cents per light. After discussion the committee decided that the resolution under which it was acting did not give it authority to make any recommendation as to which should get the contract. Both were accordingly forwarded to the Council.

The committee met at 5:30 o'clock with Mr. Wallerstein in the chair and Messrs. E. M. Noble, Vaughan, Hardwick and O. A. Hawkins.

TWO BIDS SUBMITTED.

The principal business before the committee was to consider bids for the electric lighting of the city, advertisements for which had been inserted in the papers by the Superintendent of the Gas Works as the request of the committee.

Two bids, each accompanied by a certified check for \$1,000 were received. The first was from the Richmond Railway and Electric Company, which at present furnishes 16 cents per light, does not furnish the 1,200 candle power required by its contract, and could not do so at that price without a franchise from the Council, but that they expected to have it in operation by April 1st next.

The letter further announced that the reason to believe that the Richmond Railway and Electric Company, which at present receives 16 cents per light, does not furnish the 1,200 candle power required by its contract, and could not do so at that price without a franchise from the Council, but that they expected to have it in operation by April 1st next.

Mr. Hardwick moved that the committee recommend to the Council that the contract be awarded to the lowest bidder—the Richmond Railway and Electric Company—for a period of three years. Mr. Noble thought the charge should be investigated that the company was not furnishing the candle power required by contract, and that the advisability of the city's having a plant of its own should be considered.

Mr. Hardwick said that no attention should be paid to any such insinuation, but that the contract should go to the lowest bidder, especially as the report of the Superintendent of the Gas Works and Public Telegraph had tested the lights and found them up to the standard.

Mr. Hardwick's motion was then put and lost, and the committee determined to forward the two bids to the Council without recommendation.

The Superintendent was instructed to have a light placed in the alley between Fourth, Fifth, Main, and Cary streets.

The committee after attending to a few matters of little interest and approving the pay roll, adjourned.

Water Meter Question.

The Committee on Retrenchment and Reform met at 8:30 o'clock, sub-Chairman H. W. Rountree presiding, and Messrs. Zimmermann, E. M. Noble, John J. King and E. H. Elbel present.

The sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Elbel and Rountree, appointed at the last meeting to gather facts concerning the water works, presented the following statement:

Value of water works \$2,000,000.00
Annual interest at 5 per cent. on that amount, \$100,000.00
Expenses, maintenance, etc. 42,000.00
Largest revenue from water (1887) \$145,615.30
Revenue from fire 131,709.93
Estimated revenue for year (present condition 2.47 metres and no minimum rate) 127,890.00
Estimated revenue (each service metered and minimum rate) 122,672.00
Estimated revenue (each service metered and without minimum rate) 71,807.65

COST OF WATER.

Total quantity of water pumped (3,225,962.803 gallons in 1887) divided into total expenses (\$12,900) makes cost per 1,000 gallons 3.5 cents

Total quantity of water pumped divided into receipts for water (amounting to \$134,708.03 for 1887) makes rate received per 1,000 gallons 3.51 cents

Estimated quantity of water required for use by city (average service metered) 1,243,320.034 gallons, equal to one third the whole quantity pumped at rate of 10.8 cents per 1,000 gallons 124,275.65

Estimated quantity of water used by the city for fire protection, departments, etc., to the 30 per cent. of the whole quantity, equal to 7,426,925.09 gallons at cost price, 3.5 per 1,000 gallons 26,147.67

Or, 1,740,549.39 gallons sold at average metered rate (10.8 cents per 1,000 gallons) 18,750.11

The above table was prepared from facts given in the year 1886, where 8 per cent. of the whole quantity pumped and measured by meters was equal to 22 per cent. of the whole revenue, and the average rate was 10.8 cents per 1,000 gallons.

A Fire on the Roof Discovered by Hoseman Bowry.

The Governor's mansion narrowly missed being destroyed by fire shortly after 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and but for the prompt effort of the department the historic structure would have been reduced to ashes.

About the hour named Hoseman "Bow" Bowry, of the Company No. 1, saw flames of fire breaking through the roof. When the discovery was made he was on the fourth floor of the City Hall.

After discussion the above report was adopted as the report of the committee to the Council.

The committee then discussed a variety of subjects, after which Mr. Zimmermann moved that the report be accompanied to the Council by a resolution giving it as the sense of the committee that it is essential to the welfare

of the city that an ordinance be enacted establishing a minimum rate for water.

Mr. King and Mr. Noble declared that they were not willing to vote for the proposed ordinance, claiming that it would work a hardship on the poorer people.

The committee finally adopted Mr. Zimmermann's motion that there should be a minimum rate. As to what that rate should be a difference of opinion prevailed, and the matter will be settled on the floor of the Council chamber.

COMMITTEE CONSOLIDATION.

The question of consolidating some of the Council committees of minor importance was then taken up, and Mr. Zimmermann presented the following suggestions:

The Committee on Streets shall consist of seven members, as at present, and shall include the Committee on Shockoe Creek.

The Committee on Cemeteries shall consist of seven members and shall include St. John's Burying Ground.

The Committee on Fire Department and Schools to consist of seven members each, as at present.

The Committee on Elections, Police, Claims and Salaries, Accounts and Printing, Ordinances, and Markets shall consist of five members each, the latter to include the First, Second, and Third Markets.

The Committee on Finance shall consist of seven members, none of whom shall be eligible to membership on any other committee.

The following committees which now have nine members shall consist of seven members each: Relief of the Poor, Light, Water, Retrenchment and Reform, Health, and the Public Buildings.

No change shall be made in the Committee on James River Improvement.

Mr. Zimmermann's suggestions were unanimously adopted, and the committee adjourned.

COMMITTEE ON STREETS.

The Committee on Streets was called to meet at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon at Third and Cary streets to inspect an alley between Third and Fourth streets north of Canal, with a view of ascertaining whether it is advisable to pave it.

On account of the extremely cold weather, however, only Messrs. J. J. King, Hunter, Barton, and Woody were present, so no action could be taken.

A number of the property owners, also, were on hand, and the City Engineer. An informal discussion was held and Colonel Curran advised them to think over two methods by which the alley could be paved. One was to pave it up to the established grade, when the water would run off by gravity, or to pave it to a lower grade and put in a trap for drainage.

He advised them to think over the matter before the next meeting of the Street Committee.

At that time the matter will be decided, and it is thought the committee will order the work to be done as a health measure, as it is considered to be necessary.

RECAPITULATION.

Messrs. Marx Gustaf, P. C. Elbel, James I. Smith, and S. H. Cottrell, who were appointed as a committee to recapitulate the work done by the present Council, held a meeting yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock.

After a brief discussion it was decided that the work could best be accomplished by the appointment of sub-committees, and the following were named:

Messrs. Smith and Cottrell to recapitulate the work of the Council as far as it refers to ordinances and resolutions.

Messrs. Elbel and Gustaf as a sub-committee on Finance, to collate the principal items of expenditure, and the amounts saved in different departments.

Messrs. Elbel and Elbel will meet to begin their work next Friday morning at 10:30 o'clock. Messrs. Smith and Cottrell will hold their first meeting at 4:30 to-morrow afternoon.

Cemetery Committee.

The Committee on Cemeteries met at 7:30 o'clock with Messrs. Vaughan, (chairman), Noble, Hawkins and Blanks present.

Pay rolls were approved as follows: Oakwood, \$351; River View, \$18; Shockoe Hill, \$90.

The annual report of the Superintendent of River View cemetery was received and filed. The receipts for last year amounted to \$2,065.78, an increase over 1896 of \$51.60.

Mr. Noble received a motion that he had introduced at a former meeting looking to the payment of employees of this department semi-monthly instead of monthly, as heretofore. He recognized, he said, the difficulty of getting a quorum of the Council even once a month, and he asked if it would not be possible for the committee to empower the chairman to approve the bills and pay roll. Mr. Vaughan said that the committee had no authority to delegate this power.

Mr. Noble, continuing, said he recognized that the men are only laborers and that they must be able to get money by being paid twice a month, and he renewed his motion that the committee should meet twice a month.

Mr. Vaughan said he was quite willing to attend two meetings, but the men had stated that they were willing to be paid a month, and he thought it strange that they should want a change at this late date.

MONEY FOR STREETS.

The Sun They Will Receive in the Budget This Year.

"The budget this year will be the most popular ever compiled and every member will vote for it," said Chairman of the Finance Committee C. W. Hardwick last night.

Sub-Chairman Jos. Wallerstein echoed his words, but the members standing around looked skeptical.

Chairman Hardwick was requested to divide the amounts that have been appropriated to various departments but he looked mysterious and shook his head.

He was, however, that the Street Department, in which everyone was more interested than any other, would receive \$5,000 for street improvement; \$10,000 for sidewalks; \$40,000 for curbs and \$5,000 for alleys.

Last year the sidewalks got only \$2,000, alleys \$300, and sewers nothing.

GOVERNOR'S MANSION ABLAZE.

A Fire on the Roof Discovered by Hoseman Bowry.

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THE INVESTIGATION ENDED.

Highly Interesting Testimony Given on Behalf of the Reformatory School.

BOARD LIKELY TO BE VINDICATED.

The Committee on Asylums and Prisons to Meet This Morning to Formulate a Report—Major Robert Stiles Gives Some Important Information.

The House Committee on Asylums and Prisons held two sessions again yesterday and shortly before midnight completed the investigation into the affairs of the Reformatory School at Laurel Station.

During the morning session only two witnesses were heard, Mrs. Orta Langhorne, a lady who for years has taken a great interest in reformatory work and who is very familiar with the management of the institution in question, and Major Robert Stiles, who may be called the father of the Reformatory School.

Major Stiles, who was on the stand, during a large portion of both sessions, told the committee how he conceived the idea of establishing such a school and how it grew in length on the entire question of reformatory schools as they had first been organized in England. He gave the most minute details of every incident connected with the school at Laurel Station, furnishing the committee with valuable information.

Several other witnesses were heard during the evening session, whose testimony threw some light on certain insinuations made by witnesses at the beginning of the investigation and which had not yet been very strongly refuted.

The committee will meet this morning at 10 o'clock in executive session to formulate a report, but it is very likely that the two boys came to see me and the committee will meet with the board to frame a bill which, if possible, will do away with all objections to the existing laws as to the management of the Reformatory School.

THE MORNING SESSION.

When the House Committee on Asylums and Prisons met yesterday morning in the basement of the Capitol building Mrs. Orta Langhorne first took the stand; she was followed by Major Stiles.

"I have a general knowledge of the Reformatory," she said, "since its establishment. I have been very much interested in it. While I lived in Culpeper I was asked about two years ago to make arrangements for two little boys by the name of Hansborough to be taken to the Reformatory. The school is known up in Culpeper as Mrs. Langhorne's school. One of the boys was about fourteen years old, and the other a few weeks less."

"I saw the boys last Saturday out there and I told Mr. Sampson and his wife I would like to see them and the older one, who had been sickly before, had improved so much that I hardly knew him. I did not ask them how they were treated, but the older one told me that he would learn something to make his living by and that he would never drink any more."

"I saw them go to dinner; the food was good and plentiful and they showed very good manners at the table. There is only one little criticism I would like to make, I think the boys got too much wheat bread; they ought to be given more corn bread."

ARE YOUR NAILS CLEAN?

"I noticed one thing on the Hansborough boy, that his finger nails were clean. I think that is something remarkable in such an institution and I would not like to look at all the finger nails of the Legislature of Virginia. I saw the boys and they were clean, and I saw the older one, who had been sickly before, had improved so much that I hardly knew him. I did not ask them how they were treated, but the older one told me that he would learn something to make his living by and that he would never drink any more."

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DR. JAMES' TESTIMONY.

It was 8:15 o'clock last evening when the committee was called to order by Dr. Winston in the Council chamber.

Dr. Lorimer James, the physician of the Reformatory, was first called. "I live near the reformatory, in Henric county," he said. "I have been there at all times from daybreak to midnight. When the boys are taken sick or complain to the officer in charge, it is reported to Mr. Sampson and I examine him upon my arrival. I have never seen a sick boy in the hospital. We have a trained nurse almost constantly employed. I have one boy now confined in the hospital who has a sore throat."

"Since I have been there we had eight cases of venereal disease, and one case of an epidemic of dysentery. We have a well-equipped drug store. I was at one time resident physician at the Old Dominion Hospital, where I send boys if necessary. They are treated free of charge. I have never seen a sick boy in the hospital. We have a trained nurse almost constantly employed. I have one boy now confined in the hospital who has a sore throat."

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made this system of industrial schools apply to our institution as far as possible.

The theoretical object of our school is not punishment, it is discipline, training and education. There naturally must be a certain latitude allowed, although I will not say that there might be a limit on the committee's part. We have our theory that the parents have no authority over their children or that they cannot exercise the same and in those cases we desire to step in and take charge of the boys."

In order to explain his views on this entire subject, Major Stiles said that he had framed the original bill which he had framed for the establishment of the Reformatory school. This bill was introduced in the House of Delegates during the session of 1889-90 by Mr. W. B. McIlwaine, of Petersburg. It was subsequently withdrawn and its execution would have cost the State more money than could have safely been expended from the State treasury.

WILL GET \$23,000.

"As to the expenses of the boys," Major Stiles said, "no one can better state it than I can. I know of a request which is contained in a bill which will leave \$23,000 to our school. Had it been a State school it would not have received any of that money."

"I think the food is extraordinarily good, the sleeping quarters are clean. In the boys' clothing, however, there may have been some deficiency, but the appearance of the boys did not show it and we only lost one boy through death since the establishment of the school. Their educational progress is reasonable and their religious instruction is good. They are not all bad boys and have turned out at least 25 of them. We have heard of not even twelve of them who have again turned up as criminals. On the whole we have done a right remarkable work."

Major Stiles then produced a letter from one of the inmates which could neither read nor write when he went to the school. "Superintendent Sampson was 'opposed to arming the guards,'" he said, "and added that he was not afraid of any of the boys and when he should begin to have fear, he would resign his position."

A FINE RECORD.

"As to the shackles," said Major Stiles, "I do not agree with Mr. Caskey. When Mr. Sampson suggested the shackles, I told him yes and had them made and I was the first one to put shackles on a boy. The boy came from a good family, but his father, a well-known man, died, and his mother married beneath her and the step-father drove the boy from home. I found the boy in the station house and when I told the police captain what I wanted to do with the boy, he replied that it was impossible. I have never seen a sick boy in the hospital. We have a trained nurse almost constantly employed. I have one boy now confined in the hospital who has a sore throat."

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MANY PERISH IN THE STORM.

Heavy Loss of Life and Property on the Atlantic Coast.

NEW ENGLAND STATES ISOLATED.

Telephone and Telegraph Wires Prostrated, and Trains Tied Up—Worst Since 1888 in New York—Meagre Reports From Shipping.

The storm of Sunday night and Monday was general all along the Atlantic coast from Virginia north, and appears to have been the worst since the great blizzard of 1888. On land, telegraph and telephone lines were prostrated and trains blocked while meagre reports from shipping indicate that great loss of life and property resulted. Boston apparently caught the worst of the storm and much trouble was experienced with crossed wires.

BOSTON PARALYZED.

BOSTON, Feb. 1.—A northeast snow-storm which set in yesterday and raged until this afternoon, completely paralyzed all branches of business and the street car and steam railroad traffic, and shut off the city from communication by wire with all places outside the city of Boston.

The storm was the most severe this city has experienced in twenty-five years, and caused the loss of several lives, besides doing a money damage of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Between 6 o'clock this morning a foot of heavy wet snow settled over the city and leveled wires in all quarters. More than half the electric lights of the city went out. In the suburban towns the fire-alarm service was crippled.

Several houses were broken up by falling across the roofs of the city. In the city of Boston, a fire in the electric room of the elegant residence of Charles J. Traveler, the wealthy Bostonian, resulted in the loss of his property. The loss amounted to about \$100,000.

EIGHT PERISH.

Late last night the three-masted schooner "Charles T. Briggs," of Bath, Me., coal laden, was dashed to pieces on the Nahant coast, and it is believed that eight of the crew have been recovered. The body of the crew has been recovered.

All suburban trolley lines were abandoned at midnight, and the steam railroads were closed. The city and suburbs are covered with broken poles and wires hanging from the ends of the telephone wires, which had fallen across the poles.

It will require weeks to restore the telephone and telegraphic service. Not a single telegram has been received from the city of Boston since the storm. The city and suburbs are covered with broken poles and wires hanging from the ends of the telephone wires, which had fallen across the poles.

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